

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~COUNTRY ~~Polish Occupied Germany~~ Poland

REPORT

TOPIC Polish Troops at the Arys Station and the Arys Troop Training Grounds

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 25 March 1955

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REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. Prior to October 1954, an extensive barracks installation which was occupied by Polish troops all the year round was located just south of Arys (Orzysz) (R 54/A 66) and on the east side of the main thoroughfare from Arys to Johannisburg (R 54/A 54). The occupation of some sections of this large area increased during the summer training period. Although no exact detailed information on this installation was available, the individual billeting areas were clearly discerned and numbered in sequence from the south to the north. 25X1
2. Prior to October 1954, a supply unit of soldiers who wore khaki uniforms and red service color was located in the southernmost section of the installation which included stables, storehouses, a smith-shop, and hay storage sheds. This unit which was mainly equipped with horses and numerous horse-drawn vehicles and was not too strong, had to transport rations, straw, wood etc. The men of the unit also bought hay from the farmers at a price of up to Z/ 90 per 100 kilos. In addition to numerous light draught horses, the unit had some riding horses. A total of about four stables was at the disposal of the unit. A billeting area which included low red brick buildings and extended over about 500 meters along the street adjoined the billets of the supply unit to the north. Soldiers who wore red service color and covered their shoes with low puttees were observed in this area which was occupied to capacity by young soldiers. While the unit was never observed in closed formation four columns each of which numbered about 40 men who carried numerous submachine guns with wooden forearms and drum magazines and rifles were once seen leaving the installation. At another time, an infantry unit marched from this area into the area of the troop training grounds toward Gross-Schweykowen (R 54/A 75), a vacated town. This unit was equipped with aiming silhouettes. Some trucks which carried soldiers and aiming silhouettes also occasionally left this section of the installation.
3. In the fall of 1954, the troops were still located in these billets. A barracks area which included yellow-stuccoed multi-story quartering buildings, war damages of which were repaired, adjoined the billeting area which included a low red brick building to the north.

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The troops quartered in this section also wore khaki uniforms and red service color. It was believed that they were stationed there throughout the year. During the maneuver period, practicing units were also temporarily quartered in this section and additional tents were pitched in the barracks area. Throughout the summer months, this section was overcrowded with troops. Numerous guns, most of them towed by GAS 63 trucks, were observed at these billets. Units which had up to 50 motor vehicles, most of them towing guns, were observed leaving the installation. Officers of the units rode in jeeps. The guns included a low model on two wheels with pneumatic tires which had a very long barrel, and another model which had particularly high wheels with solid tires and a shorter, ~~fully standing upright~~. The large wheels reached up to the chest of a ~~man standing upright~~. The units could not be distinguished; some ~~units were~~ ~~temporarily~~ quartered in this section and others were only temporarily stationed there. ~~Some~~ A small apartment house which had a separate access from the street and was partitioned from the troops billets was located at the northern end of the entire barracks area. A sentry stood guard in front of the building where two guns were set up. The house was used as the residence of the so-called commander whose functions were unknown.

4. In the fall of 1954, newly constructed apartment houses for Polish officers and their dependents were located opposite the large barracks area on both sides of ul. Kolejowa which led to the Arys railroad station. These houses included two large four-story brick buildings and a smaller four-story brick building. In the fall of 1954, some sections of the buildings were already occupied.
5. Prior to October 1954, the Arys railroad station on the single-track railroad line from Nikolaiken (R 54/A 36) to Arys to Lyck (R 54/A 86) had a side ramp which was ~~located on the~~ east side of the station. It was a brick side ramp which ~~could be used to~~ unload a complete freight train. Prior to the fall of 1954, the dismantled Johannesburg - Arys - Loetzen (R 55/A 59) railroad line was not yet rebuilt.¹
6. In the fall of 1954, the western border of the troop training grounds ran along the east side of the Arys - Johannesburg road as far as off the branch to Lyssuhnen (R 54/A 55) (town excluded), and from there in a south-southeastern direction along the edge of the woods as far as the northern bank of Rosch See (lake) with the vacated town of Bilitzen (R 54/A 65) located in the area of the training grounds. A military check point where all motor vehicles were checked by sentries of the armed forces and the militia before entering Arys was located on the northern outskirts of Arys. Another check point was located on the Johannesburg road off the branch to Seegutten (R 54/A 56). A narrow fir wood which, for some stretches, protected the training area from observation extended east of the Johannesburg - Arys road near the training grounds.
7. In the fall of 1954, tanks were observed firing at moving box-like targets at a distance of about 1 kilometer in the area south of the village of Pappelheim (R 54/A 56). They were observed only during the maneuver period. About 5 guns which were towed by trucks were observed in emplacements at a small hill east of the highroad in the area of Schweykowen. In 1953 and 1954, the combat noise caused by artillery firing practices at the training grounds was heavier than in the preceding years.


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8. It was reported from hearsay that, during the maneuver period, other Polish units were quartered in low building and tent camps in the area of the training grounds. In October 1954, individual Polish soldiers who wore yellow cap bands were observed on the street in Arys.

1.  Comment. The present report substantiates the belief that Arys is also used as a permanent station of Polish troops.

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2.  Comment. The observation of the troop training grounds reveals no new information.

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